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## superficial

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Main Entry: **su·per·fi·cial** ˈ

Pronunciation: "sū-p&amp;r-'fi-sh&amp;l

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Middle English, from Late Latin *superficialis*,  
from Latin *superficies*

**1 a** (1) : of or relating to a surface (2) : lying on, not  
penetrating below, or affecting only the surface <*superficial*  
wounds> **b** *British*, of a unit of measure : **SQUARE**  
<*superficial* foot>

**2 a** : concerned only with the obvious or apparent :  
**SHALLOW** **b** : lying on the surface : **EXTERNAL** **c** :  
presenting only an appearance without substance or  
significance

- **su·per·fi·cial·ly** ˈ / -'fi-sh(&-)lE/ *adverb*

**synonyms** **SUPERFICIAL**, **SHALLOW**, **CURSORY** mean lacking  
in depth or solidity. **SUPERFICIAL** implies a concern only  
with surface aspects or obvious features <a *superficial*  
analysis of the problem>. **SHALLOW** is more generally  
derogatory in implying lack of depth in knowledge,  
reasoning, emotions, or character <a light, *shallow*, and  
frivolous review>. **CURSORY** suggests a lack of  
thoroughness or a neglect of details <gave the letter only a  
 *cursory* reading>.

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